

species of the family Lecanidae.

The observed species composition differed notably from earlier studies from Andhra Pradesh (Naidu 1967) and West Bengal (Sharma 1993). The rotifer communities from Assam registered 16.2% and 47.1% similarities [vide Sorensen Index (Sorensen 1948)] with those from the Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. *Lepadella patella* is the sole species common to the samples from Assam and Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand, four species i.e., *Lecane closterocerca*, *L. luna*, *Lepadella patella* and *Mytilina bisulcata* were found to be common to Assam and West Bengal.

The rotifers were observed in 18 (about 53%) of the total 34 domestic wells sampled

during summer (April 1990). They, however, occurred in only five (16%) out of the total 32 domestic wells sampled during early winter (December 1990). The percentage occurrence is relatively lower than the results from West Bengal (Sharma 1993), which indicated rotifers in 16 (64%) out of total 25 sampled domestic wells. Further, *Lecane closterocerca* and *L. hamata* depicted co-occurrence in a number of collections from Assam, while other species appeared to be rare in the present study.

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29. RECORD OF *HOMALOCANTHA SECUNDA* (LAMARCK 1822) FROM OKHA IN GULF OF KUTCH

(With one text-figure)

Family Muricidae (Mollusca) is well represented along the Indian coast. However, most publications are based on surveys made in the early 1950s. Rao and Rao (1993) report 60 species of *Murex* from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, from collections of the Zoological Survey of India.

The literature on molluscs along the west coast of India is sparse. Notable contributions are those of Melvill and Abercrombie (1893), Subrahmanyam *et al.* (1952), and Menon *et al.*

(1961). Among the publications from south and southeast coast of India, those of Crichton (1941), Gravely (1942), Satyamurthi (1952), and Rao and Rao (1993) are important.

During a survey conducted in 1995 at Okha, I came across a mating pair of small *Murex* which could not be identified immediately. The specimens have a shouldered whorl, frilled outer lip, long siphonal canal which is open, with three to four short, strong spines. The larger shell is

40 mm. The specimens are of *Homalocantha secunda* (Lam.) (Fig. 1), which has been described by Rao and Rao (1993).

H. secunda is found along the coast of south India at Chennai (= Madras) (Gravely 1942) and the southern tip of India (D'Attilio 1983). The extralimital distribution of the species is reported as Sri Lanka, northwestern Australia to Indonesia and New Caledonia (Redwin and D'Attilio 1976). None of the available publications mention its occurrence on the west coast of India. The presence of live specimens at Okha in the Gulf of Kutch confirms its distribution on the west coast of India.

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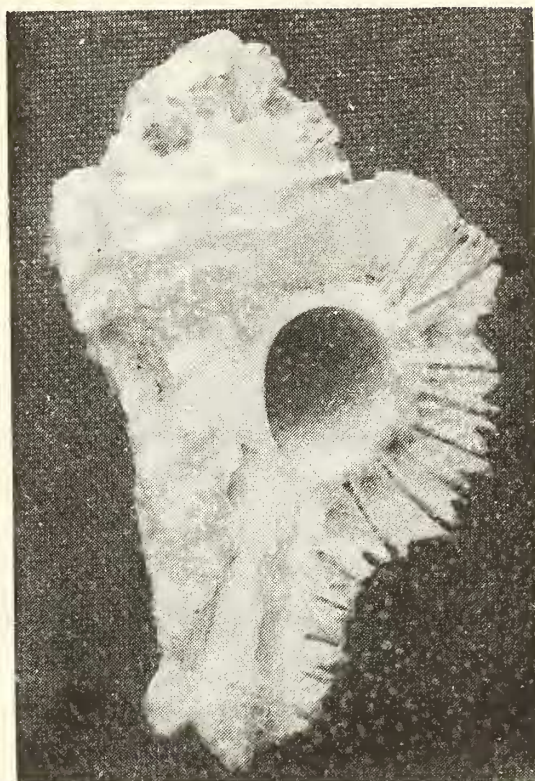


Fig. 1: *Homalocantha secunda* (Lamarck 1822)

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30. THREE NEW RECORDS OF CLADOCERA (CRUSTACEA) FROM INDIA

(With eighteen text-figures)

Cladocerans are well known in India. Recently Michael and Sharma (1988) published a FAUNA OF INDIA volume on Cladocera covering 90 species. The present study reports the occurrence of three species viz. *Alona cannellata* Brehm, 1934, *A. pseudanodonta anodonta*

Daday, 1905 and *A. holdeni* Green, 1952. The first two were collected from Madurai, Tamil Nadu 9° 53' N lat., 78° 8' E long. and the third from Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan 27°10' N lat., 77° 31' E long. The three species are reported for the first time from the